



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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1. Osprey will be Banded on July 5 at Jester Park
2. Collision Sends Tuber to Hospital
3. Money Available for Volunteer Watershed Clean-ups
4. Dry Hydrants Help Local Fire Protection

[Editor's Note: No Fishing Report this week. Reports will resume July 11.]

OSPREY WILL BE BANDED ON JULY 5 AT JESTER PARK

BOONE – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will be banding young ospreys at Jester Park at 9 a.m., on July 5. The public is invited to the event.

There have been six osprey pairs nesting in Iowa this year. Nesting sites include Don Williams Lake, in Boone County, near the Hartman Reserve Nature Center, in Cedar Falls, two nesting pairs near the Macbride Raptor Center and near the Wickiup Nature Center in Linn County.

The DNR will place osprey chicks at various sites around Iowa beginning July 11. The osprey chicks are coming from Minnesota and Wisconsin, and will be placed at Don Williams Lake and Clear Lake on July 11, At Red Rock and at the White Rock Conservancy on July 12, and at Wickiup Hill on July 15.

Since 1997 project partners have released 129 Ospreys at seven sites around the state. Since 2003 there have been eight wild produced Ospreys in Iowa. All ospreys released in Iowa have a purple band which is unique to Iowa birds and a silver U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) band for relocated ospreys and a green USFWS band for wild produced ospreys

Osprey partners are Macbride Raptor Project, Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Polk, Boone, Linn, and Marion Conservation Boards and White Rock Conservancy.

In other raptor news, peregrine falcons in Iowa have faced a challenging year. Five nesting pairs have produced 13 fledgling falcons. These successful nesting sites

include Cedar Rapids, MidAmerican Energy headquarters in the Quad Cities, the Louisa Generating Station, the Alliant Energy Generating Station at Ottumwa, and a new pair at Great River Bridge at Burlington.

Sites with territorial falcon pairs that were unsuccessful are American Republic Insurance building in Des Moines, the I-80 and I-280 bridges in the Quad Cities, and two wild nesting sites on northeast Iowa bluffs near Lansing and Waukon Junction. First time nesters and predation by raccoons were attributed to the causes of unsuccessful nesting attempts.

In 2005 there were 171 territories around the Midwest with 133 sites successfully fledging 376 young peregrine falcons.

Contact information:

Don Williams Lake osprey information: 515-353-4237

Clear Lake osprey information: 641-357-3517

Red Rock osprey information: 641-627-5935

White Rock Conservancy osprey information: 712-683-5555

Wickiup Hill osprey information: 319-892-6450

For more information, contact Pat Schlarbaum, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at 515-432-2823.

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COLLISION SENDS TUBER TO HOSPITAL

EMMETSBURG – A collision between two men being pulled on inner tubes on Lost Island Lake at 5:20 p.m. Sunday, sent one individual to the hospital with multiple facial fractures.

Chance Hoskinson, 22, of Glidden, was knocked unconscious when the inner tube he was riding on jumped the boat wake and sent him airborne. Hoskinson landed face first on the knee of fellow tuber Tony Knute, of Ralston. Hoskinson was taken to Spencer Regional Hospital where he regained consciousness. He was held overnight for observation and will be released Monday.

Knute was not injured. There was no damage to the boat.

“Incidents like this are unfortunate and really show how a seemingly innocent activity like being pulled on an inner tube can change to a life threatening situation in the blink of an eye,” said Brent Koppie, conservation officer with the DNR. “The quick action by his fellow boaters and tubers are to be commended.”

Hoskinson will undergo follow-up treatments for his injuries.

The DNR was assisted by the Palo Alto County Sheriff's Office. The incident remains under investigation.

For more information, contact Koppie at 712-260-1010 or Mick Klemesrud at 515-281-8653.

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MONEY AVAILABLE FOR VOLUNTEER WATERSHED CLEAN-UPS

DES MOINES — This summer, 10 Iowa communities will get some help cleaning up their waterways from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR will accept applications for its watershed cleanup mini-grants until July 21.

The mini-grants, worth up to \$1,000 each, are part of the department's CLEAR (Community Leaders Enhancing Area Rivers) program. Winning applicants will use the money to fund cleanup events on local lakes, rivers or streams.

Those events will include volunteer trash removal, natural resources education and responsible waste management (collected garbage must be properly disposed of and recycled when possible). Cleanup organizers should plan to make their events self-sufficient in subsequent years.

Find more information, including application materials, at www.iowater.net. The July 21 deadline marks the second round of CLEAR applications. Five Iowa communities already earned funds during the program's first round of applications this spring. Visit an online events calendar at www.keepersoftheland.org for details about these and other volunteer opportunities.

The CLEAR mini-grant program evolved from the DNR's annual river cleanup event called Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition). Project AWARE is a weeklong canoe trip and watershed cleanup that has involved hundreds of Iowa volunteers every year since 2003. Tremendous interest in local cleanups among AWARE volunteers first inspired CLEAR.

Second-round CLEAR grant recipients will be announced on August 4 and can receive funding beginning August 18. Grantees must use their funds within one year of receiving the money. Completed applications must be postmarked by July 21 and mailed to Brandon Harland – Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines IA 50319.

Funded through the DNR's REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) program, CLEAR grants are administered by the DNR's IOWATER citizen water quality monitoring program.

For more information, contact Brandon Harland at (515) 281-3150 or at brandon.harland@dnr.state.ia.us.

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DRY HYDRANTS HELP LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION

DES MOINES – To the surprise of most Iowans, wildfires do occur in state, ranging from escaped road ditch burns that cover a couple of acres to large grass fires that can cover up to several hundred acres.

“With our extremely dry conditions statewide, one resource that is critical to wildland fire control is a source of nearby and accessible water,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) forestry bureau. “As housing developments and vacation areas expand into areas with grasses, forests and other flammable fuels, having a readily available water source for wildland fire control is usually not included in the plans.”

“Across Iowa there are hundred to thousands of farm ponds and waterways that can be accessed with private landowner permission, to help provide emergency sources of water for wildland fire fighting using ‘dry hydrants,’” said Ryan Schlater, cooperative fire specialist with the Iowa DNR and Golden Hills RC&D. “A dry hydrant is basically a 24-inch plus size pipe sunk below the frost line into an existing farm pond with a strainer cap. The placement and use of dry hydrants improves fire fighting capabilities of local fire departments, saves fuel and reduces costs.”

The Iowa DNR in partnership with the USDA Forest Service has available grant dollars to local and county governments, rural fire departments and even homeowner associations to construct and install dry hydrants.

“Grants have helped install 43 new dry hydrants in 30 counties across Iowa and we encourage local fire departments to take advantage of these available grants,” Walkowiak said.

For more information about dry hydrant grants, contact Ryan Schlater, Fire Specialist with the DNR at 515-233-1161, Email ryan.schlater@dnr.state.ia.us or go to www.iowadnr.com/forestry/fire/

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